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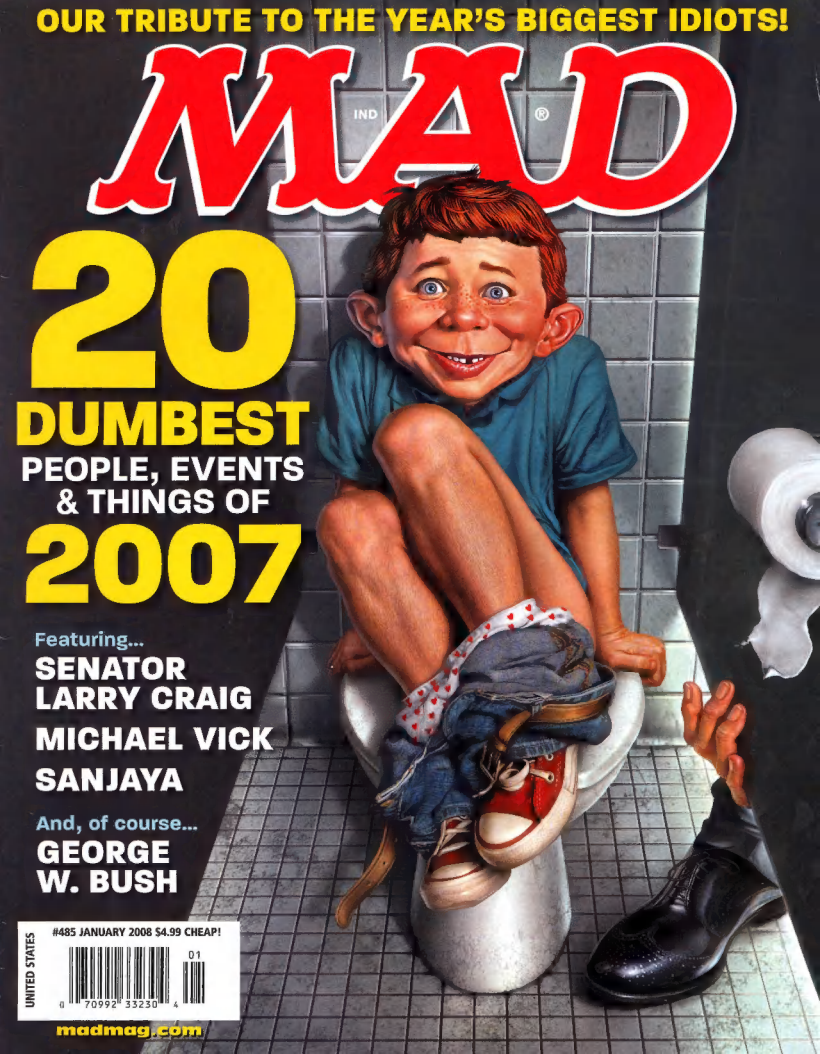

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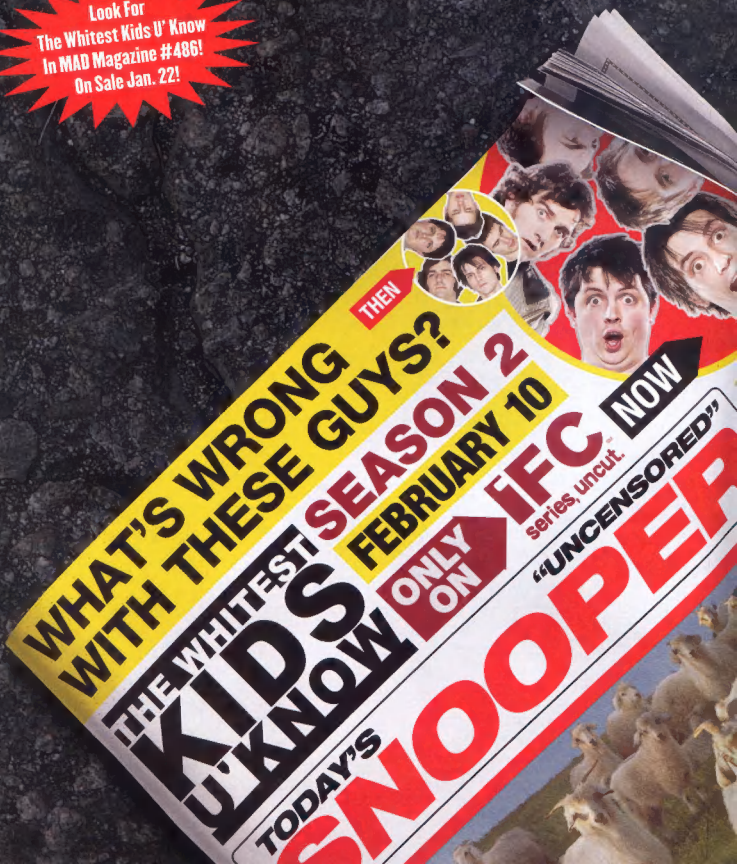

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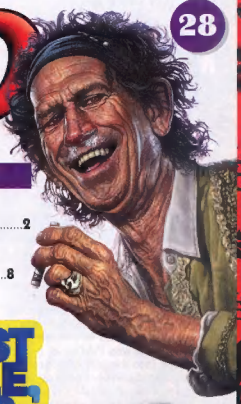

DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS AND TOMATOES DEPARTMENT:
Random Samplings of Reader Mail....2

RANDOM ACTS OF MINDLESS DEPARTMENT:
The Fundalini Pages....8

THE MAD 20 THE DUMBEST PEOPLE, EVENTS AND THINGS OF 2007!

IN BLOG WE TRUST DEPARTMENT:
Planet Tad!!!!!....40

JOKE AND DAGGER DEPARTMENT:
Spy Vs. Spy....42

OBSERVATION DRECK DEPARTMENT:
What the Heck is the Difference?....44

SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPARTMENT:
A MAD Look at *Dancing with the Stars*....45

PASTA LA VISTA, BABY DEPARTMENT:
What if Arnold Schwarzenegger Was a Waiter at The Olive Garden....47

MARGINAL THINKING DEPARTMENT:
"Drawn Out Dramas" by Sergio Aragones....**Various Places Around the Magazine**

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FRONT COVER ARTIST: MARK FREDRICKSON

BORED OF ED

As a high school teacher I don't see MAD very often in our school library, but I stumbled across one lying on a reading table yesterday and have spent several enjoyable hours reading and laughing and reminiscing. You see, as a 10-year-old boy more than 40 years ago it was MAD that began my decline into the pits of satire, sarcasm and disrespect of authority. I now, of course, inculcate my current students with the same attitudes, and have never been sorry for it. Thanks, MAD, for driving us all a little bit insane — and thus closer to the edge of sanity itself.

Ross Klongerbo, Orlando, FL

Dental Ross — Whoa, you lost us on that last quote there, Professor — that's pretty deep! I guess you had plenty of time to come up with it while devoting "several hours" to reading a single, 52-page issue. Several hours?!? It doesn't take us that long to write and draw an issue — that must be one gem of an English department you teach in! —Ed.
P.S. Hey readers, are you a professional educator who has funny stories involving MAD? If so, send it to: "Bored of Ed." c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019!

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

I have been a MAD reader for about a year now and my dad read MAD a lot when he was a kid. I'm writing because I have a dumb wish that only the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™ can grant. I say this because if you suggested anything to my dad he would not be able to ignore it. My dad is a philosopher and our family is going away from home for a year and we have not yet decided where to go. My dumb wish is that you could tell him to go to a cool place that would be fun to visit. Really, anywhere except Toronto, Canada (that's where he wants to go).

Conor Burke-Smith, Ames, IA

Connie — Here at the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™ there's nothing we like better than granting the wishes of young impressionable youths. We feel we have the perfect solution — move to Walt Disney World's Epcot Center in beautiful Orlando, FL! That way you have the delightful world of Disney *and* your dad can enjoy the flavor of Toronto at the Canada Pavillion! FYI park hours are 11AM-9PM. Thanks for writing and enjoy the happiest place on Earth! —Ed.

TEARS OF A TOWN

A few summers ago in MAD #467, my picture made a brief apperance in a segment called "What Kind of Person Reads MAD." Suffice it to say, at the time, I was quite happy to have my face appear in such a place as MAD. But now, I look back on that picture, and am a little angry for a few reasons: my letter was not printed, my picture was below a grandma giving the finger, you spelled my town wrong and my letter was not printed. So, I am asking you on behalf of myself and the people of Bradenton, Florida, to print this letter and right this wrong you have bestowed. Plus, I wouldn't mind going to my friends and saying "Ha! I got in a second time, schmucks!"

Nick Contino, Bradenton, FL

Nick or Treat — After issue 467 came out, we were flooded with letters from the residents of Bradenton, FL. thanking us for misidentifying the town and therefore distancing it from a loser such as yourself. So to the good people of Bradenton, you're welcome! —Ed.
P.S. In your letter, you misspelled "appearance." Kind of hurts your spelling credibility, Nico, doesn't it! —Ed.

ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH

The battle rages on! In MAD #480, we announced that in their Envelope of the Month competition, Dan Root and Matt Handfield had dropped out, making Jim Hutchings the de facto winner. Frankly, we were glad to put the whole thing behind us. However, it seems we spoke too soon. We just received an envelope from Matt Handfield of Northampton, MA reopening the whole can of worms (by the way, that's Jim H. frozen in carbonite). Whoever you're rooting for in this battle, one thing's for sure, *MAD About Star Wars* is on sale now so run out and buy your copy today! (How's that for a shameless plug?)

MATT'S *STAR WARS* THEMED SWIPE AT JIM HUTCHINGS

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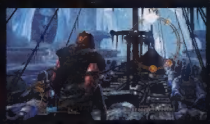

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HIDE AND SNEAK

I have been reading MAD for eight months now and I have finally decided that I should try to get on the Letters Page. People have tried for years to get on and hopefully that won't be me. Writing this letter makes me realize that you have to be stupid or do something stupid to get published! So, I'm going to tell the best MAD story that I can. We had to do our annual assessment testing, so they asked that each student bring reading material for when we completed the test. I could think of no better material than one of my MADs! I put it in a *National Geographic* magazine to attempt to hide it. But there was one problem — *National Geographic* is smaller than MAD! But I was sneaky and luckily got away with it despite the looks I got from the chick sitting next to me! Anyway, I doubt I'll get published on my first attempt, but prove me wrong!

Jordan Hull, Littleton, CO

Hullabaloo — What a funny coincidence! When we're stuck working here, bored out of our skulls, we hide our copy of *National Geographic* inside an issue of MAD so we won't get into trouble! —Ed.

AN INTERN FOR THE WORSE

Special thanks for all the hard work by the MAD Editorial and Art summer interns — our laundry never looked so good!

FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT: ALEC DONOVAN, DANIELLE SHUSTERMAN, JIAYING WEI, NATHANIEL STEIN, MEKKO HARJO, MAX BRUSTEIN, NICK DANZI, ERIN DAMERON

STATUE OF LIMITATIONS

My wife gave me a subscription to MAD and that's when I first saw Monroe. Monroe's really the best thing that's ever been printed in MAD! Now I'm a big fan and I just had to make a statue of him! Please let me know if you like it!

Marco Kuipers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Off The Marco — Nice job, but please contact us again if your wife gives you a subscription to *Playboy* — we'd love to see what you create then! —Ed.

MARCO'S MONROES

ALFRED E. GRAWP

Just wondering if you guys noticed the similarities between Hagrid's giant brother and Alfred E. Neuman? Well, if you didn't, you should get out more often instead of waiting for guys like me to make these comparisons. I won't charge you for this one, but I'm guessing that's because your publication has diminished my good judgment over the last 10 years.

Zach Witt, Deerfield, IL

I went to the movie theatre with my Mom to see *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. It was an okay movie, but in the middle of it when they showed Grawp the giant, I thought I saw a resemblance between Grawp and Alfred!

Paul LoBue, Chesterfield, NJ

Muggles — We, too, noticed the similarity between our beloved, idiot mascot and that giant freak Grawp and promptly got on the phone with *Harry Potter* creator J.K. Rowling. When we asked her to explain herself, all she did was blabber on to us that Grawp is apparently gay. Before we could stop her, she also "outed" Neville Longbottom, Sirius Black, Dementor #3, Firenze the Centaur (well, duh!) and amazingly, the Sorting Hat. Enjoy re-reading the novels with this information in mind! —Ed.

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS

Angela Lansbury looked shocked and delighted at seeing that MAD has called her "The AARP Sexpot"! I am shocked and delighted at appearing in MAD after reading it for a lifetime!

Reesa Woolf, Boonton, NJ

Cry Woolf — Nicely done, you not only got to meet the lovely Ms. Angela Lansbury, but you got a three-year subscription for snapping a shot of the Nifty Fifty's resident silver fox! Way to go! —Ed.

P.S. How was the *Columbo* convention?

REESA AND ANGELA — GIRL POWER!

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WRITE OF THE LIVING DEAD

I have finished reading MAD #483 (the Zombie one). In all its funniness I found some inconsistencies and flaws. In your magazine you showed zombies eating people AND their brains. It can't be both, right? I always heard it was brains, however with the release of recent movies it shows zombies not caring about brains, just flesh. Plus, how could a rotting corpse pull open someone's head for their brains? Zombies are not that smart.

Steve Matthews, Honey Brook, PA

Steve Matthews Band — Here's a question for you: if a brain-eating zombie attacked YOU, how long would it take before he starved to death? —Ed.

HARRY POTTER READER ALERT!

Those lucky enough to have their letters printed in this issue will receive a whole cauldron of *Harry Potter* stuff! We're going to send you a Harry Potter interactive DVD game *Hogwarts Challenge* — play the game this season courtesy of our friends at Warner Home Video, a *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* 2008 desk calendar courtesy of our friends at Andrews McMeel, the DVD of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* again courtesy of our friends at Warner Home video and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* for the Wii home video game system courtesy of our friends at Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and EA! Don't get your Hogwarts in a twist if your missive didn't make it in, everything is on sale now!

SIB STORY

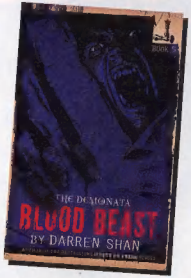
I have a problem with my brother. I was reading a MAD in my sister's room 'cause it is a lot cooler in her room. I had a whole bunch of teddy bears and pink stuff all over me when my brother kicked open the door, jumped in the room, and took a picture of me! Now he is going to show everybody in my school and my friends so what should I do?

Ben Sluggett, Grand Rapids, MI

Sluggo — What should you do? Well, when you have an embarrassing secret that you're desperately trying to keep under wraps, we would advise that you NOT write in to an internationally-published magazine describing that very secret in vivid detail! To sum it up, you're screwed, dude! —Ed.

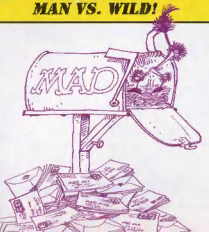
ANOTHER READER ALERT

From wizards to demons! We're also giving away *The Demonata #5: Blood Beast* to everyone whose letter was published this month, courtesy of our friends at Hachette Book Group, USA. For more information please visit their website at www.darrenshaw.com.



NEXT MONTH IN MAD #486 ON SALE JANUARY 22!

OUR HILARIOUS SATIRES OF *HEROES* AND *MAN VS. WILD!*



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Contributing Artists And Writers
the usual gang of idiots

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MAD'S SKETCHY COMEDY OUTTAKES FROM 30ROCK

Wait, you actually went through with it? I was *joking* when I dared you to leave your daughter a voicemail calling her a rude little pig!

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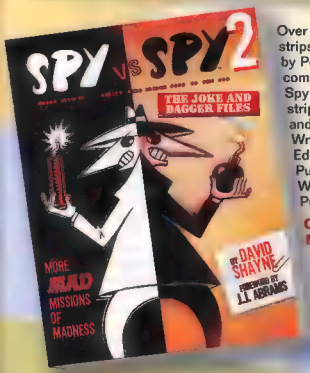

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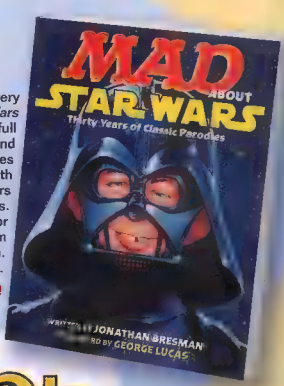

Virtually every MAD *Star Wars* article! Chock full of annotations and behind-the-scenes memories from both MAD artists and writers and Lucasfilm veterans. Written by MAD Senior Editor and former Lucasfilm lackey Jonathan Bresman. Published by Del Rey Books.

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Savor the final days of a failed presidency by reading this hard-hitting satiric collection of articles on George W. Bush — the worst President since...well...Clinton! A MAD Book.

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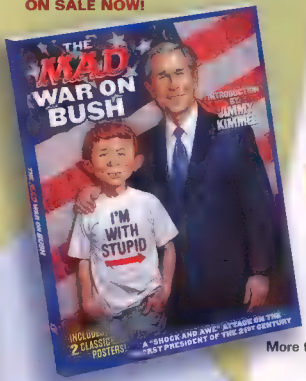
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GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEW

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: IRREVERSIBLE TERMINAL DEMISE, VOL. 1
by J.J.M. DeMichelzynski and Todd Scott Ballbag Jr.
Marvel Comics, $24.95

For over half a century, superhero comics have had three unbreakable rules. One, there's always time to banter back and forth in the middle of throwing a punch. Two, the new Aquaman series is SO gonna get cancelled. And three, death is always fixable.

In comic books, the cemeteries come with revolving doors. Superman died, but he got better. Professor X became an ex-man, and then he came back. Wonder Woman bit the dust until she got her second wind. Phoenix died, then she didn't, then she did, then didn't, then did, didn't, did...what day is it today? From Green Lantern to the Punisher, from Colossus to the crappy Robin that everybody hated, comic books have taught the same lesson: getting yourself killed is something you can walk off.

Don't get the wrong idea, though. Coming back from the dead isn't a snap. It's a tough narrative trick that requires time travel, a previously unmentioned clone, a cosmic resurrection, an alternate dimensional rebirth, or an inattentive editor with a drinking problem. But it can be done. Somehow the only comic book figures who manage to stay permanently dead are the original creators, usually after decades of poverty.

I CAN'T BELIEVE AUNT MAY WAS GUNNED DOWN BY THE KINGPIN! SHE DIED IN MY ARMS!
AND THEN, SHE WAS BURNT TO ASHES BY ELECTRO!
AND THEN, HER CRISPY ASHES WERE SCATTERED INTO ALL THE OCEANS, BY THE SUB-MARINER!
I'LL AVENGE HER! BUT WHAT GOOD ARE ALL MY POWERS WHEN THEY CAN'T PROTECT THE ONES I LOVE...LOVED... GOSH, AUNT MAY... OH, AUNT MAY!
YES, PETER? WHAT'S WRONG?
AUNT MAY?!?

For a prime example of the phenomenon, we need only to take a look at the never-ending Spider-Man saga. Many decades after being murdered by a thug, Peter Parker's beloved Uncle Ben returned from an alternate timeline, but was soon killed again by a third Uncle Ben, who was in reality not Uncle Ben at all, but a wily shape shifter. No, seriously.

Unfortunately, not all Spider-resurrections are that straightforward. Spider-Man's girlfriend Gwen Stacy was killed by the Green Goblin, who died himself one issue later. But Gwen's mystery clone debuted shortly after. Except it wasn't really a clone, but a different woman who'd been secretly infected with a genetic super virus that transformed her into a Gwen Stacy duplicate, a storyline which eventually led to five more Gwen Stacy clones showing up. Oh, and the Green Goblin didn't stay dead, either.

The low point came in 1999's *Disarmed* miniseries, in which it was revealed that Dr. Octopus' death "didn't count" because "he had his metal tentacles crossed."

Admittedly, after all the part-time corpses, it's hard to squeeze a whole lot of believable dramatic tension out of the death lemon. But writer J.J.M. DeMichelzynski has a few moves up his sleeve. In the first chapter of *Irreversible Terminal Demise*, he permanently kills off a random guy whose last name is Spinderman. This kind of rare suspense will keep the reader on the edge of his toilet seat, wondering who the next three characters to die will be...and whether they'll all be the same character. Volume One ends on a shocking cliffhanger, as the original radioactive spider from 1962 makes a stunning return.

This book is a must-purchase for all fans who want to know exactly which unforgettable story will be expunged in eight months, retro-revealed as a psychic illusion implanted into Spider-Man's head by the Sandman's twin brother. You'll die if you miss it! Well, not DIE die.

IT'S THAT IDIOTIC TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

THE MAD 20

THE DUMBEST PEOPLE, EVENTS AND THINGS OF 2007!

The Tay Zonday Forecast: *Chocolate Rain*, with a 100% Chance of Sucking

Wild Horses' Ass: Keith Richards Sniffs His Father's Ashes

"Rehab" Singer Amy Winehouse: Life Imitates Art

The Giant Toy Recall: A China Pattern

The Tuberculosis Air Travel Scare: TB or Not TB

Imus: "Nappy-Headed" Host

The Saddam Execution Video: Eyewitness Noose

Bush Breaks Presidential Record For Time Off: Vacation Daze

"Don't Taze Me, Bro": A Shocking Arrest

The Crazy Diapered Astronaut: Houston, We Have A Mental Problem

Trump vs. Rosie: Noise Will Be Noise

Ellen's Doggie Meltdown: Crying Over Spilt Milk-Bones

Isaiah Washington Bashes Homosexuals: Gay's Animosity

The Military Surge in Iraq: Soldiers of Misfortune

Sanjaya: Indian Bummer

Vanessa Hudgens' Nude Pix: High School Imbecile

Britney Spears: Strife In The Fast Lane

Cheney Claims He's Not Part of the Executive Branch: The Grim Veeper

The Anna Nicole Smith Paternity Trial: Who's Your Daddy?

Rock and Tommy Lee Fight Over Pamela: A Pair of *Real* Boobs

Paris Hilton: The Ultimate Dumb Blonde Joke

Cent Loses to Kanye, Doesn't Retire: Get Rich or Try Lyin'

Walter Reed Army Hospital Scandal: Toying With Soldiers' Lives

Kiefer Sutherland Repeated Drunk Driving: Jack-ass Bauer

$5,000 Hannah Montana Concert Tickets: The Price is Blight

Lindsay Lohan: Human Crash Test Dummy

A-Rod Upstages the World Series: The Gall Classic

Scooter Libby: A Man For All Treasons

The James Brown Burial Brouhaha: Papa's Got a Brand New Body

Michael Vick's Bad Newz Kennel: Pitbullsh*t

J.K. Rowling Outs Dumbledore: Hokie Focus

The Senator In The Bathroom Stall: Craig's Lust

Giuliani Interrupts Speech to Talk to Wife on Phone: Making a Rudy Call

Alberto Gonzales: The Nation's Chief Flawed Officer

The YouTube "Leave Britney Alone" Kid: The One-Million-Hits-Wonder

***If I Did It* by O.J. Simpson: Murder, He Wrote**

Wolfowitz Quits World Bank in Disgrace: NeoCon-Man

The Creation Museum: You Can't Darwin 'em All

The Geraldo/O'Reilly Immigration Shoutfest: Douches Wild

The *Sopranos* Finale: Bada Bing! Bada Boo!

Dog the Bounty Hunter Spews the N-Word: A Klan-Do Attitude

1 MICHAEL VICK'S BAD NEWZ KENNEL

PITBULLSH*T

If you like your books with a heaping helping of animal mutilation and human depravity, then Michael Vick is the author for you. Is it possible for a human to discover the key to happiness and prosperity through killing innocent canines? For Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, the answer appeared to be "yes" as he welcomed, then slaughtered, numerous pitbulls on his Virginia property. This is the unforgettable tale of Ripley, a larger-than-death dog, and one of the few pitbulls to survive Vick's fighting ring by impishly hiding under cars and savagely biting anything that came close to him. Anonymous, who was involved in Vick's Bad Newz Kennels and is now preparing to testify against his former friend in return for a reduced sentence, perfectly captures the non-uplifting culture of pitbull fighting. Dog-haters and illegal kennel owners alike will laugh at Vick's mischievous electrocuting antics, cry after he's caught, and finally cringe as the Atlanta QB tries to convince the public that he's found Jesus. All told, however, the graphic depictions of animal mutilation and the literal breakneck action of ***Michael & Me*** will leave certain readers cheering for Vick's lawyers to play the race card, find a loophole, or do whatever it takes to have their hero back to doing what he does best: bankrolling hateful, blatantly illegal bloodsports!*

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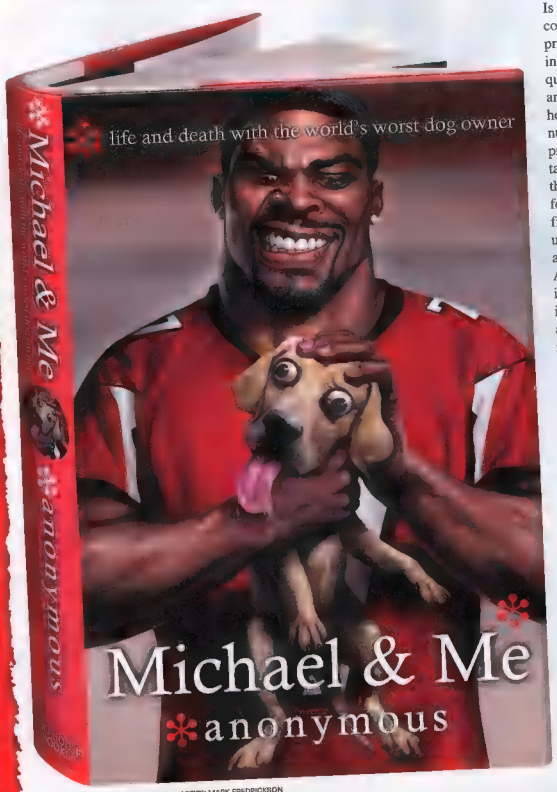
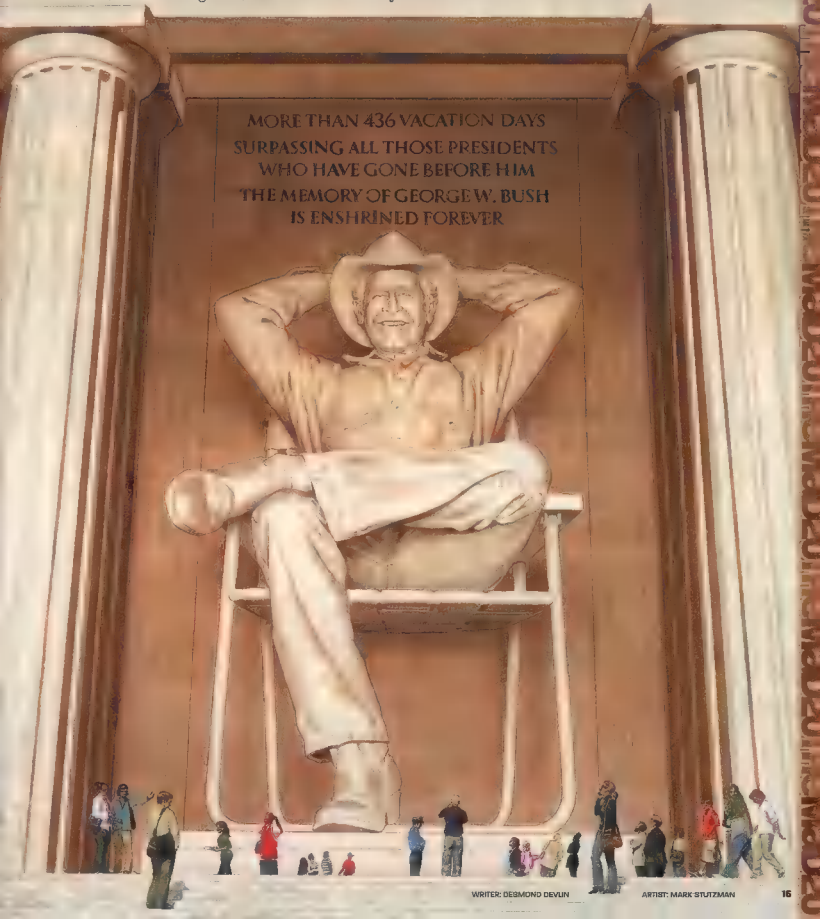


WRITER: JEFF KRUSE ARTIST: MARK FREDRICKSON

*This text refers to the hardcover edition bound in dog skin. The audio edition is even more graphic.

2 BUSH BREAKS PRESIDENTIAL RECORD FOR TIME OFF VACATION DAZE

George Bush is zeroing in on a long-standing record even more hallowed than Hank Aaron's 755 homers: Ronald Reagan's presidential vacation mark of 436 days. Experts said it would *never* be broken, yet as we go to press, Dubya is on the verge of surpassing the Gipper's remarkable relaxation achievement with a year on the job still to go. Bush has taken about 70 vacations, during a war no less! If FDR took off that much time (note: he didn't, and he served FOUR terms!) you'd be reading this introduction in German while munching on strudel. It's monumentally dumb!


MORE THAN 436 VACATION DAYS
SURPASSING ALL THOSE PRESIDENTS
WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE HIM
THE MEMORY OF GEORGE W. BUSH
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN ARTIST: MARK STUTZMAN

3 IMUS "NAPPY-HEADED" HOST

Professional loudmouth Don Imus has a well-documented history of making racist and homophobic "jokes." But this year his unwise crack about the Rutgers women's basketball team rebounded on him badly and cost the wrinkled old geezer his job. As we go to press, the "I-man" is mapping out his comeback. Yet something tells us his trip back to the top will take a lot longer than his unplanned trip to Nowheresville.

Directions from Top of the World to Rock Bottom

http://www.nappyquest.com/directions/imus

Search

DON IMUS' NAPPYQUEST

Maps | Directions | Mobile | Gas Prices

Printer-Friendly | E-mail | Send to Cell | Link to these Directions

START Top of the World END Rock Bottom

Total Est. Time: 2 weeks

Maneuvers

1: Start by going directly into obnoxious, pointless blather.

2: Take detour into obnoxious, *racist* blather.

3: Start going SOUTH.

4: Attempt to make RIGHT by offering half-assed apology for comments.

5: Look for signs that things will improve.

6: Continue going SOUTH.

7: Take a TURN for the worse when Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton get involved.

8: Attempt to take HIGH ROAD and apologize again.

9: Advertisers take EXIT.

10: Attempt to steer discussion away from racist comments.

11: Comments take TOLL, take 2-week suspension.

12: Continue going SOUTH.

13: HIGH ROAD turns into EXIT RAMP.

14: Continue going SOUTH.

15: Take 1st EXIT from MSNBC.

16: Take 2nd EXIT from CBS radio.

17: Stay on both EXITS much longer than expected.

18: Come to stop at DEAD END.

END

WRITER: DAVE CROATTO

OWN A PIECE OF *MAD* HISTORY!

In the 1980s, MAD Founder and Publisher William M. Gaines, in conjunction with the editors, established **"The Soul of MAD"** – a collection of 12 MAD covers chosen for their **uniqueness, artistic achievement and classic timelessness.** The original artwork for these covers would never be sold, and forever hang in the offices of MAD Magazine.

Now, here is **your chance** to own a special reproduction of one of these covers. **Subscribe to MAD** for two years and receive a **limited edition print** of artist Kelly Freas' classic **Alfred Scarecrow painting** (MAD #43) with your paid subscription.

Each print is 11" X 14" and bears a "Soul of MAD" marking. Limited to 1,000 prints, each is hand numbered and suitable for framing (or wrapping fish). Because this is a limited offer, SUBSCRIBE NOW to insure getting this MAD collectible!

3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!!!!

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5 WALTER REED ARMY HOSPITAL SCANDAL

TOYING WITH SOLDIERS' LIVES

George Bush and his snivel of neocon chicken hawks sent American soldiers to war with vague goals, no exit strategy and vehicle armor thinner than Nicole Richie after ■ night of purging. So why was anyone surprised that when injured troops returned home, the Bushies provided them with the same kind of well-planned care they did Hurricane Katrina victims? Since Bush vacillated between being oblivious and not caring about the deplorable hospital conditions, next time he needs a colonoscopy, maybe he should check himself in to Walter Reed's infamous Building 18 and just hope ■ rat doesn't crawl up his ass.

G.I. WOE

THE ORIGINAL OUT-OF-ACTION FIGURE!

Every criminally-neglected G.I. Woe figure includes:

★ Standard-issue Grimebed™
★ Extreme Bedpan
★ Nev-R-Checked IV Drip
★ Battlerats™ & Actionroaches™
★ Action-gruel Food-tray

Collect all the characters!

CRIMSONFACE™ White House Press Secretary
GENERAL NEGLECT™ Walter Reed Medical Director
LADY MEDDLER™ Nosy *Washington Post* Reporter
HYPOCRO™ Sloganeering Commander-in-Chief

Walter Reed Press Room Playset with Apology Podium and mini-GrovelSpeech™ sold separately!

WARNING:
Contains neglected, overlooked parts
MAY CAUSE CHOKING, GAGGING, AND OTHER REACTIONS OF DISGUST

FOR CHILDREN 18 AND OLDER
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF MEDIA

WRITER: JACOB LAMBERT G.I. WOE FIGURE: DAVE CROATTO PHOTOS: IRVING SCHILD

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THE DEMONATA

Enter a world of webs and blood. Demons and corpses. Nightmares and terror. A world where the evil, murderous creatures of THE DEMONATA—demons who revel in torment and slaughter—try to cross over into our world. In these vicious surroundings, you'll discover that magic is possible, and demons are real.

READ THEM ALL!

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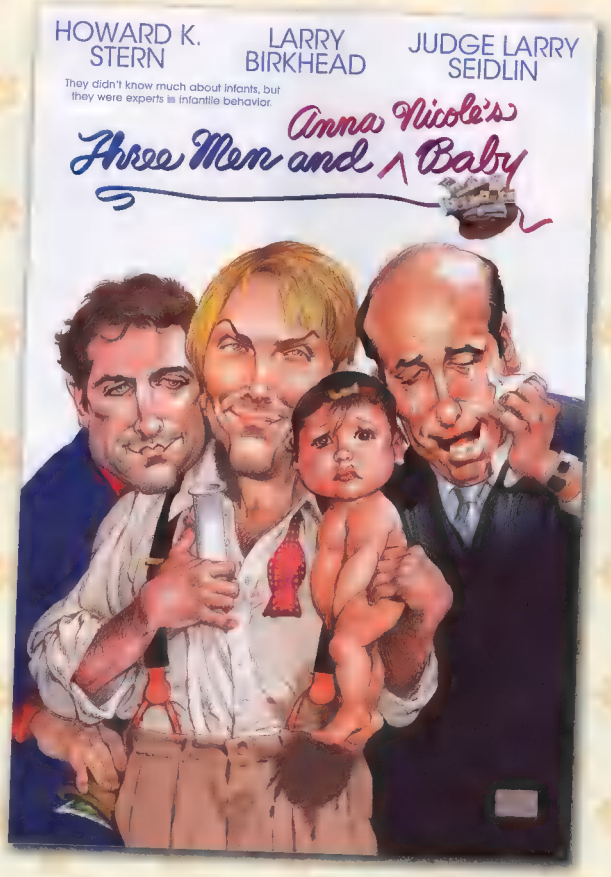
6 THE ANNA NICOLE SMITH PATERNITY TRIAL

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

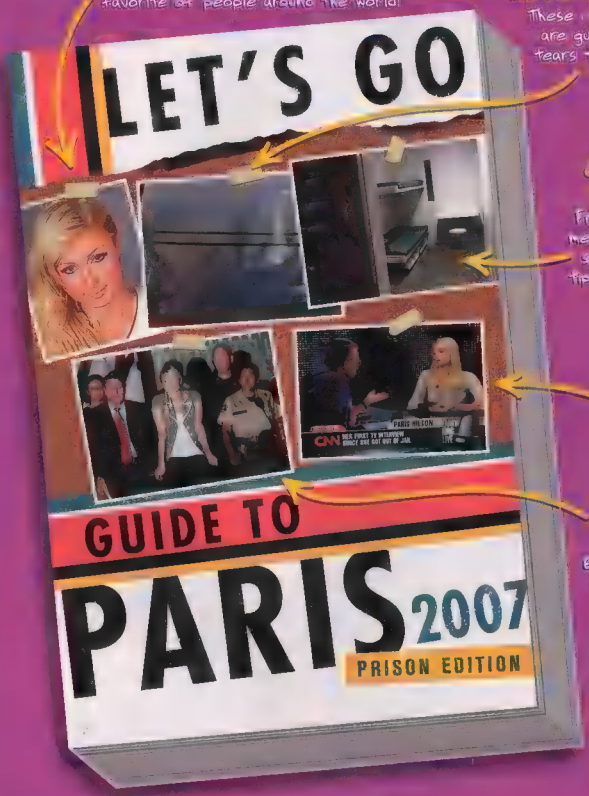
Even before Anna Nicole's corpse was in the ground, a parade of losers, opportunists and creeps came out of the woodwork to tout the legitimacy of their sperm. Was the daddy of Anna's child her ghoulish lawyer, Howard K. Stern, or was it frosted-haired nitwit, Larry Birkhead? Or was it a long-shot like Zsa Zsa Gabor's pervy husband or O.J.? (There was a dead blonde, so odds were good O.J. had *some* involvement.) The whole debacle was enough to make a grown man cry — and that grown man turned out to be presiding Judge Larry "Weepy" Seidlin.


HOWARD K. STERN
LARRY BIRKHEAD
JUDGE LARRY SEIDLIN
They didn't know much about infants, but they were experts in infantile behavior.
Anna Nicole's
Three Men and a Baby

 ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER

7 PARIS HILTON THE ULTIMATE DUMB BLONDE JOKE

She's made movies (including porn), acted on TV and written a book. But this year, Paris Hilton finally did something we could all get *really* excited about: serving time as inmate #9818783! Amazingly, her jail sentence wasn't punishment for her career (even though her CD arguably warranted the death penalty). While in prison, Paris "found Jesus," the first guy she ever encountered that she didn't end up boning. She soon emerged a changed woman. No longer a self-centered, shallow, useless media whore, now she was a self-centered, shallow, useless media whore ***felon***. All in all, it's been quite a trip.


ARRESTING SIGHTS!
This must-see image of Paris is a favorite of people around the world!
ESCORTED AUTO TOURS!
These [illegible] getaways are guaranteed to bring tears to your eyes.
CHEAP LODGING!
Free room service meals including bologna sandwiches! Plus great tips on early checkouts!
VISIT ANCIENT RELICS!
EASY WALKS!
Enjoy Paris's most celebrated strolls
LET'S GO
GUIDE TO
PARIS 2007
PRISON EDITION

PHOTOS: BAPA/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

8

THE CRAZY DIAPERED ASTRONAUT

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A MENTAL PROBLEM

Used to be when you thought of astronauts the first thing that came to mind was Neil Armstrong and the majesty of the first moon walk. But in one fateful 12-hour fool's mission, Lisa Marie Nowak changed all that. Now when we think of astronauts, the first image that comes to mind is deranged, diaper-wearing BB gun-toting, lovesick maniac. Lisa's notoriety may have hurt NASA's image, but it was an out-of-this-world boon to the adult diaper industry.

When your head's in the clouds, you don't have time for bathroom breaks!

NEW

Unrequited Luvs DIAPERS FOR LOONY ASTRONAUTS

COMPLETELY DISAPPROVED BY NASA

CRAZY 95 to 130 lbs.

1 DIAPER

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NFANT – TO 14 LBS.

TODDLER – 12 TO 18 LBS.

CRAZY PERSON – 95 TO 130 LBS.

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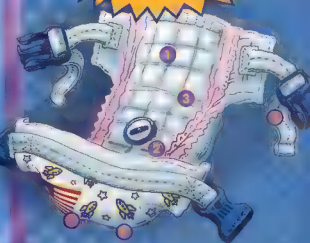

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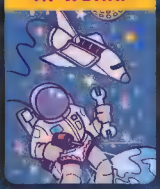
- Thermal protection system composed of RCC foam insulation tiles – will not disintegrate during re-entry, or from results of stopping at Taco Bell on I-10 East outside of Tallahassee
- Tempered O-ring seal vacuum lock for debris jettison
- Silica gel reservoir absorbs waste; errant tears
- High-quality embroidered U.S. flag
- Cute little rockets
- Reinforced nylon webbing straps diaper in place to resist forces of up to 10 Gs or sudden freeway lane-changes

AT WORK!



WITH FRIENDS!

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SAVE $2.00 on any package of Unrequited Luvs and be entered for a chance to have your life's most humiliating experience broadcast on national TV!

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Address

City/State/Zip

Name of Unrequited Love/Jilter

Consumer: Redeem ONLY by purchasing brand indicated in hopes that the nosy cashier won't remember that all of your children are potty-trained and ask you embarrassing questions. Retailer: We will reimburse you for the amount of this coupon in addition to the value of any free publicity to your store should employees be interviewed by members of the news media and pontificate about the nervous erratic behavior and presumed state of mind of the consumer when product was purchased.

"ONE GIANT LEAP BACKWARD FOR WOMANKIND!"

WRITER: SCOTT MAIRO ARTIST: CHARLES AKINS

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STEVE BISSETTE- Swamp Thing, Tyrant
GABE BRIDWELL- Noble Causes
SERGIO CARRIELLO- Azrael, Iron Ghost
CHEE- Dawn, The Dead, Second Wave
AMANDA CONNER- The Pro, JSA
SHANE DAVIS- Batman, Mystery in Space
JESSE DELPERDANG- Batman
JAN DUURSEMA- Star Wars
GINA GOING-RANEY- Outsiders
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH- Iron Fist
MORRY HOLLOWELL- Civil War
KARL KESEL- Fantastic Four
ADAM KUBERT- Ultimate Superman
ANDY KUBERT- Origin, 1602, Batman
STAN MADALONI- Mada Design
TOM MANDRAKE- Creeps, Batman
RAGS MORALES- Identity Crisis
NICK NAPOLITANO- DC Comics
BILL PRESING- Rex Steele
TOM RANEY- Ultimate X-Men
FERNANDO RUIZ- Archie
DAMION SCOTT- Robin, LeBron James
ANDY SMITH- The First, Claw
RICK VEITCH- Can't Get No, Army @ Love
BRANDON VIETTI- Spider-man, The Batman
LEE WEEKS- Incredible Hulk, Winter Soldier
JASON WRIGHT- Holliday

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9 THE GIANT TOY RECALL A CHINA PATTERN

When Toys "R" Us first rolled out their classic jingle, "I don't want to grow up, I'm a Toys "R" Us kid," it probably never occurred to them that being a Toys "R" Us kid could actually *prevent* children from growing up. Unfortunately, with this year's recalls of millions of hazardous Chinese-made toys, everyone from toy companies to retailers to parents discovered that sweatshop-produced products tend to have sweatshop-grade quality control. And we always thought the most nauseating thing coming out of China was the hot and spicy Szechuan Octupus platter.

Recalled Toys R Us

Your #1 source for toys that should never have been allowed on the shelves in the first place!

Poison Me Elmo TOX(IC)

If you loved watching Elmo TMX doubled over and rolling around the floor, then you'll *really* love being doubled over and rolling around the floor yourself, even when it's caused by lead poisoning from Elmo TOX(IC)!

Sorry, no arm checks or doctor referrals

$35.99

Thomas the Tainted Engine

Just one lick of Thomas' lead paint job and it'll be full speed ahead to the Emergency Room!

Don't rail against silly safety regulations! Get on the fast track to fun (and savings!) NOW!

$8.99

Lead Paint By Numbers

All of the great artists were nuts, and now you can be sick in the head, too! Taste the paint and see crazy colors!

Small amount of painter paint mean BIG savings for you!

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Featuring Trap and Toast ™ Technology

"Fingers Go In, But They Don't Come Out!"

TAKE 20% OFF your index finger after it's burned using this oven

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Barbie and Tanner's "What's That In Your Poop?" Playset

Now you can help Barbie clean up after her dog, Tanner! It's fun and it's easy, because the poop has magnets in it! And so will YOU after swallowing the loose magnets in Barbie's toy pooper scooper! It may be low on fiber, but it's high on FUN!

Super low prices! Super lower gastro-intestinal tract damage!

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MagStix-to-Your-Stomach™

Swallow the magnetic pieces to form amazing constructions inside your digestive tract!

We're slashing prices and rupturing intestines!

~~$19.99~~ ~~$14.99~~

$9.99

WRITERS: MATTHEW A. COHEN AND JASON SCHNEIDER

10 ISAIAH WASHINGTON BASHES HOMOSEXUALS GAY'S ANIMOSITY

Not long ago the national pastime was baseball. Now it's gay bashing. As usual, frigid right-wing hatemonger Ann Coulter vied for the number one spot. Hot on her spiked heels was NBA dribbler Tim Hardaway. But surpassing them both for sheer stupidity and intolerance was *Grey's Anatomy* actor Isaiah Washington. By outing and repeatedly calling fellow co-star T.R. Knight the "F" word, Washington exposed himself as a world class a-hole and it cost him his job on the nit TV show. Maybe Washington should consider a career in the movies.

From Isaiah Washington
HOMOPHOBe
Starring ISAIAH WASHINGTON as the Ignorant, Back-P[illegible]'ll Self-Destructive, Totally-in-Denial Gay-Ba[illegible] TIM HARDAWAY as the [illegible] Joe who hates "Ball Handlers" REV. TED HAGGARD as Self-Loathing "Cured" Homosexual and ANN COULTER as the Shrill, F-Bomb Dropping Bigot

ARTIST: RICHARD WILLIAMS

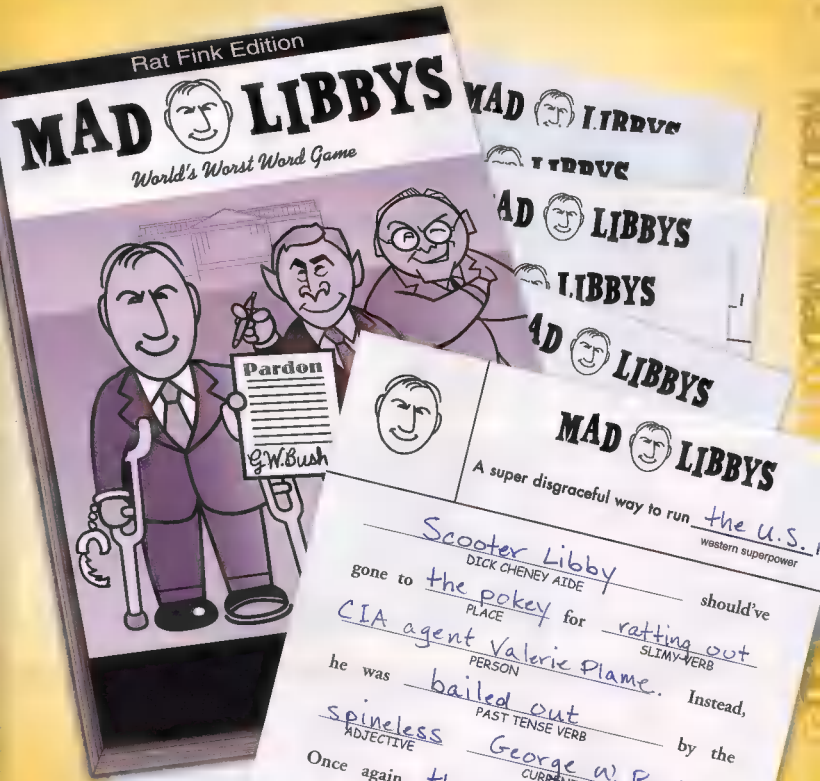
11 WILD HORSES' ASS:
KEITH RICHARDS SNIFFS HIS FATHER'S ASHES

After the passing of a loved one, musicians are often inspired to write touching tribute songs. But not human skeleton and hedonistic freakazoid Keith Richards. In an interview last spring, the Rolling Stones guitarist claimed he mixed his papa's remains with cocaine and then inhaled them. While we haven't seen the will, we're fairly certain Keith's old man didn't request that his ashes be scattered upon his son's septum.

WRITER: JACOB LAMBERT ARTIST: FREDRICKSON

12 SCOOTER LIBBY A MAN FOR ALL TREASONS

After leaking the name of an undercover CIA agent, ending her career and endangering her life, Dick Cheney's right hand hatchet-man, Scooter Libby, was convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice. But the same day he was ordered to prison to serve a 30-month sentence, President Bush commuted his sentence. (Compared to Libby, Paris Hilton did hard time!) Bush said the punishment was "excessive." Huh? While Governor of Texas, Bush approved 131 executions! But when it comes to his cronies, his "mercy" knows no bounds. We'd tell you more, but you can probably fill in the blanks from here.



WRITER: JACOB LAMBERT

14 THE CREATION MUSEUM
YOU CAN'T DARWIN 'EM ALL

Finally there is compelling evidence that the theory of Evolution is wrong! For proof positive that man's intelligence has not evolved in eons, consider the Cro-Magnon brained imbeciles behind the recently opened Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky. The museum's exhibits don't merely challenge science, they ignore it completely! It's the only place in the world you can see man riding bareback on a dinosaur — except, of course, in an old episode of *The Flintstones*.

CHARLES DARWIN'S NIGHT AT THE CREATION MUSEUM

STEVE GERBERDING
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

15 *IF I DID IT* BY O.J. SIMPSON MURDER, HE WROTE

It's been another *killer* year for O.J. Simpson. After coming out with a book in which he all but confessed to the murder we all know he committed, he followed it up with a third-rate burglary attempt that might actually land him in the slammer for the rest of his miserable life. (Note: if it's true that history repeats itself, then be on the lookout for another 20 m.p.h. white Bronco chase to the Mexican border any day now.) We've long had enough with O.J. and his despicable antics and hope this time they throw his own book at him!

IF WE DID IT
CONFESSIONS OF THE WAYS WE'D KILL O.J.
Draw and quarter him by white Broncos
Bury him alive under six tons of sports memorabilia
Beat him to a bloody pulp with his own nine iron
Drop him 500 feet from a helicopter ass-first onto a football goalpost
Dip him in scalding acid one inch a day

16 LINDSAY LOHAN HUMAN CRASH TEST DUMMY

Lindsay Lohan is only 21, yet she's already been in more than fourteen crashes — and that's as many car accidents and rehab programs. You're really not in need to be not for mannequin to crash an entire career's worth of mistakes into just a few short years. Months it's just the beginning, and we think it probably is for this one lucky supermodel.

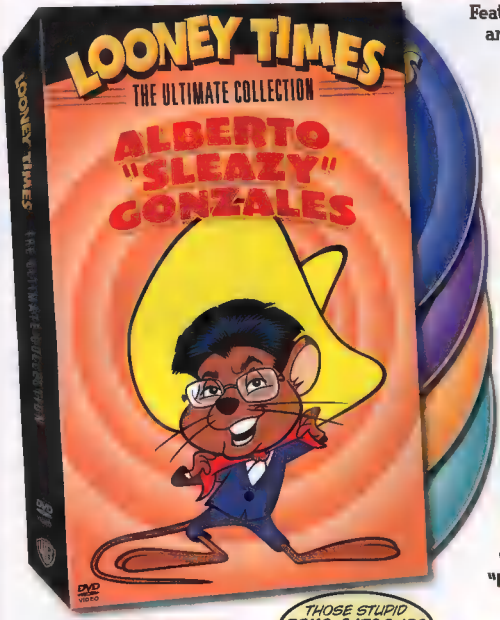
WRITER: NICK DANZI ARTIST: SCOTT BIRCHER

17 ALBERTO GONZALES

THE NATION'S CHIEF FLAWED OFFICER

From the start, Alberto Gonzales defied expectations, namely that no one could be a worse Attorney General than John Ashcroft. The pathetically under-qualified Bush crony lied under oath about his role in the firings of U.S. Attorneys so they could be replaced with — surprise surprise — pathetically under-qualified Bush cronies. When he came under fire, he promised he wouldn't resign, but then he did. It was the one lie he told that we could all be happy about.

FIRST TIME ON DVD!!!



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INCLUDES THESE HILARIOUS EPISODES:

"THE LYIN' KING"

The mischievous mouse testifies to Congress about bidding "adios" to ■ Federal Prosecutors!

"WIRE TAP DANCING"

Our hero vermin pokes more holes in the Constitution than a piece of Swiss cheese!

"DE-TAIN, BOSS, DE-TAIN"

The rascally rodent heads south of the border to Cuba's Guantanamo Bay for some wind surfing and waterboarding!

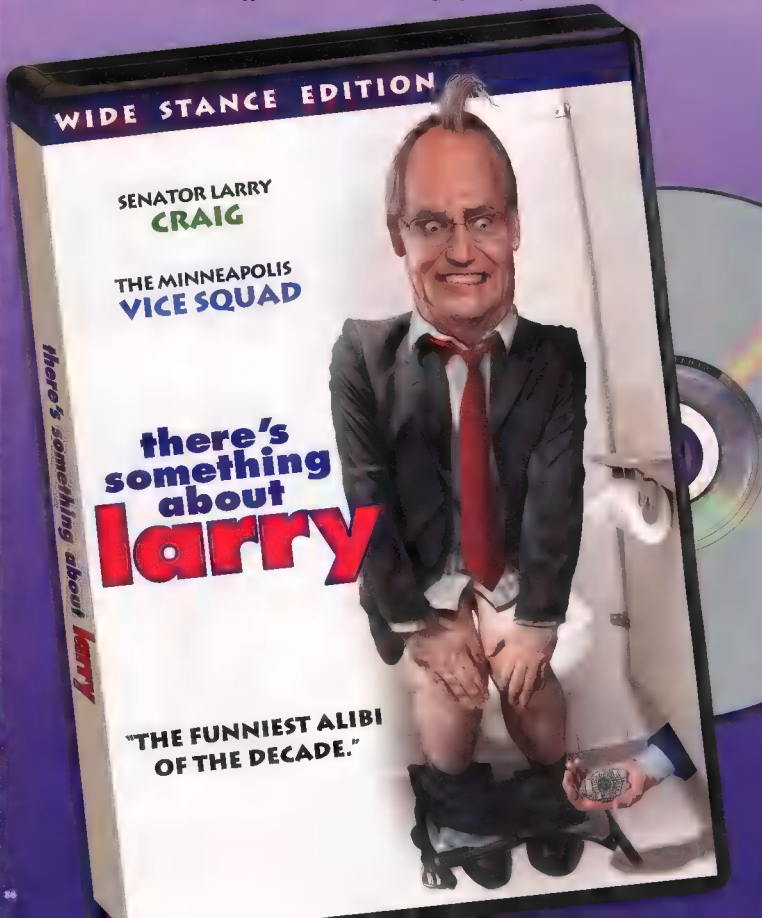
WITH A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY HIS LOYAL COHORT SLOWPOKE W. RODRIGUEZ!
THOSE STUPID DEMO-GATOS ARE AFTER ME WITH SUBPOENAS!
ANDALE! ANDALE!

ARTIST: STEVE SMALLWOOD

BUY IT TODAY — NOT TAMALE!

18 THE SENATOR IN THE BATHROOM STALL CRAIG'S LUST

Nothing is more satisfying than when a pompous, sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, upstanding member (no pun intended) of the "family values" crowd gets caught with his pants down — literally! Who knew that a public men's room in the Minneapolis Airport was actually a playground for steamy homosexual encounters? Well, Senator Larry Craig from the gay state of Idaho knew! You don't have to read the writing on the bathroom wall to see that another hypocritical and/or self-loathing Republican just came out of the water closet.



WHAT'S THE LATEST ANIMAL TO GO ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST?

HERE WE GO WITH A SPECIAL EDITION

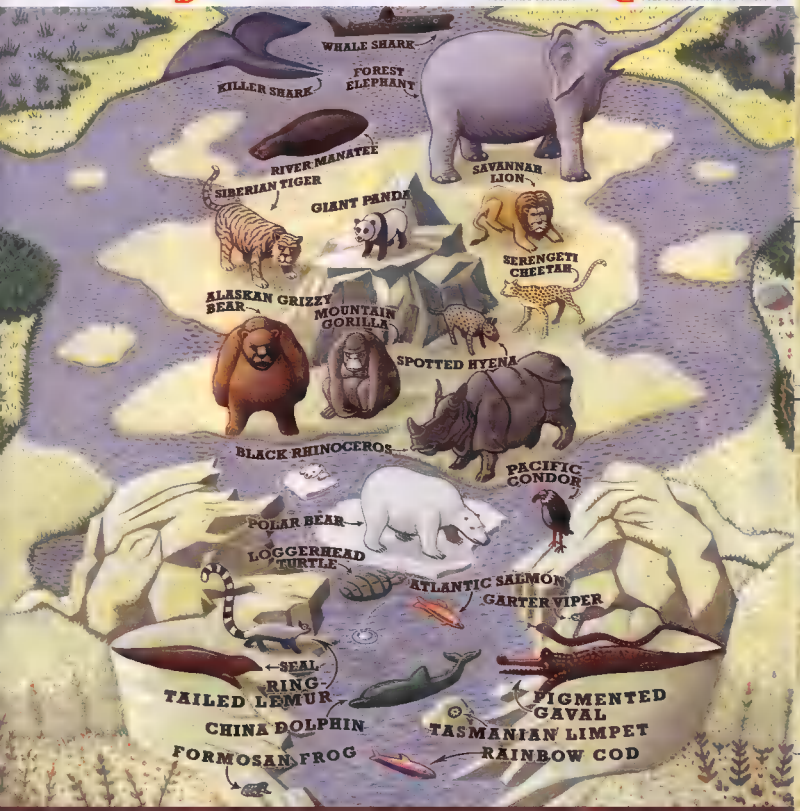
MAD 20 FOLD-IN

The rate at which we're losing beloved animals is truly stomach-turning. This news is especially hard to digest and we have to do something to protect these helpless creatures. To find out which animal is in the most danger, fold the page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



THIS IS A HUGE PROBLEM. MORE AND MORE FAMILIAR CREATURES ARE DYING. THOUGH MANY PERISH FOREVER, WE MUST SAVE WHAT'S LEFT

(WRITER AND ARTIST: ALI JAFFE)

WHAT'S THE LATEST ANIMAL TO GO ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST?

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

THE FAMILY PET

A B

20 SANJAYA INDIAN BUMMER

We're generally jealous of no-talents who make millions of dollars. But not so with the king of no-talents, Simon Cowell. Cowell reportedly made over $45 million last year as a judge on *American Idol*. But we think he was underpaid. After all, the poor bastard had to sit through every second of every excruciating, soul-crushing performance of Sanjaya Malakar, the tone-deaf song-smith who suffered perennial bad hair days and, by comparison, made William Hung sound like Josh Groban. We can only pray that we've heard the last of this Michael Jackson wannabe.

ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER
SANJAYA PHOTO: APWIDE WORLD PHOTOS

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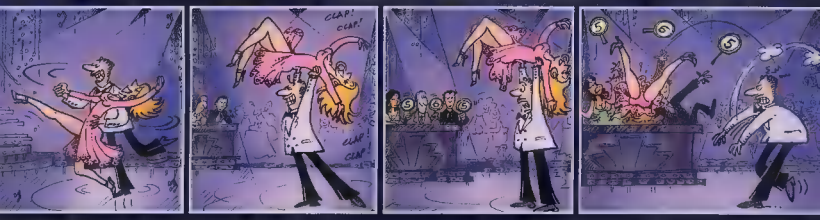
WHAT THE HECK IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Can you find the 7 idiotic changes we've made to this magazine cover?

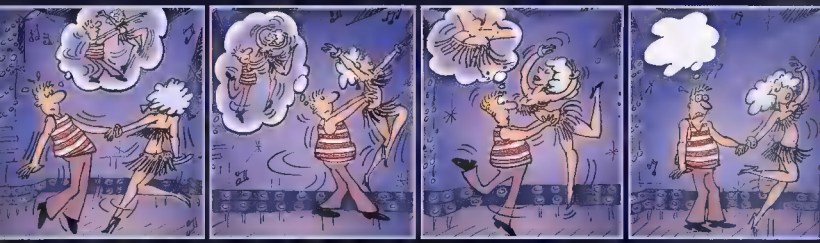
ANSWERS: 1) There's an extra "e" in the word "Greetings." 2) Alfred is wearing a pair of delightful novelty glasses – fancy that! 3) One of the Easter eggs is just plain white. 4) The pine tree has been added on the far left. 5) The Christmas tree in the window is gone. 6) There's no mortar between two of the bricks in the chimney. 7) Alfred's footprints are gone.

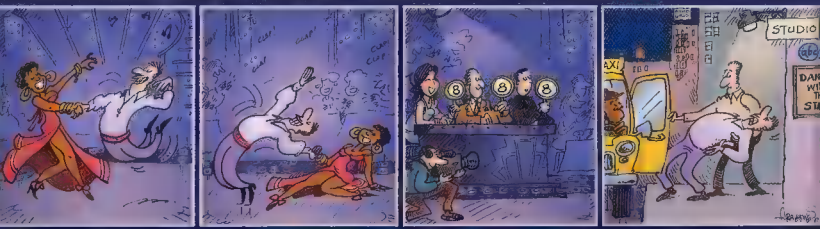
Sergio Aragones presents

a MAD look at dancing with the stars



WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES




STUDIO

IN THE BATTLE
OF GOOD VS. EVIL
NOT ALL
WILL SURVIVE

ON DVD AND HI-DEF DECEMBER 11

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SEQUENCES OF FANTASY VIOLENCE AND FRIGHTENING IMAGES

Bonus Material/Trailer Not Rated.

harrypotterorderofphoenix.com wbhidef.com warnervideo.com

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Ball Park
HUNGER GETS
WHAT HUNGER WANTS

THE FUNDALINI PAGES

FUNDALINI ASKS "WHAT IF...?"

This Month...

WHAT IF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY RAN A CARNIVAL?

Camilla the Duchess of Cornwall now known as Camilla the Duchess of Corndogs

Knock over the three milk bottles and you have a choice: stuffed Garfield or be knighted by the Queen

Bumper car ride renamed *Di and Dodi's Parisian Dodge 'em*

The biggest sideshow attraction: Fergie the Fat Lady

Teacup ride filled with real tea

The carnival's unofficial slogan: *The sun never sets on the geek show tent*

Quality of dental hygiene — about the same

Sooner or later, Prince Charles would be romantically linked to the Bearded Lady

DIARY OF A Wii OWNER

DAY 1
12:05 PM - Just got my Wii — can't wait to get it home!

12:36 PM - First Wii injury: pulled my groin muscle while trying to move the entertainment center containing my PS3, Gamecube and Xbox 360 to make room for the Wii.

1:32 PM - Wow, it really feels like I'm boxing! (Because I am! I've spent the last hour fighting with my little brother over who gets to play *Wii Boxing* first.)

DAY 2
8:00 PM - I just played *Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz* (you tilt the Wii Remote to guide a "monkey ball" through a zany obstacle course), *Kororinpa: Marble Mania* (you tilt the Wii Remote to guide a marble through a zany obstacle course), and *Dewy's Adventure* (you tilt the Wii Remote to guide a ball of water through a zany obstacle course). The creativity of Wii game designers is just staggering!

DAY 3
8:41 PM - Instead of playing tennis and baseball with my friends, I spent the day playing a game system that *simulates* playing tennis and baseball with my friends.

DAY 4
5:04 PM - Just downloaded the Internet Channel. Now I don't think I'll *ever* need to leave the couch! Wa-hoo!

5:06 PM - Discovered that there are no porn blockers on the Wii.

5:15 PM - Convinced my mom (hopefully!) that what she saw was just me playing with my Wii Remote.

DAY 5
4:50 PM - Wow, SofaTube.com and WiiToob.com both let me watch YouTube videos on my television through the Wii's Internet Channel! Now I can finally see YouTube videos as they were meant to be seen: choppier, blurrier, but definitely waaaay bigger!

THE FAST 5 THINGS OVERHEARD AFTER HENRY HAGER PROPOSED TO JENNA BUSH

1 Well, that outta keep me out of Iraq! Mission accomplished!

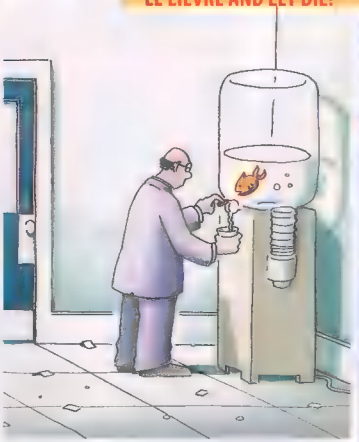
2 Hopefully, now Condoleezza will stop drunk dialing me!

3 Now those Secret Service jerks CAN'T put me in a headlock when I try to make out with her!

4 Maybe I should have an exit strategy...just in case this doesn't work out!

5 Oh, we're *definitely* gonna adopt!

LE LIEVRE AND LET DIE!



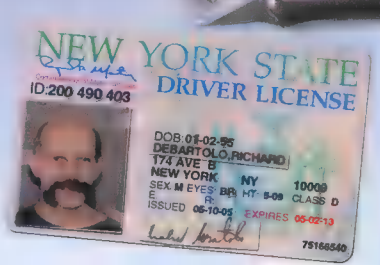
Whoa! That's plenty...easy there...let's not go nuts now..... seriously, quit it. Quit it. Quit it quit it quit it quit it quit it...

THE GODFREY REPORT

IN	FIVE MINUTES AGO	OUT
		Chutzpah
Jellies	Marmalades	Compotes

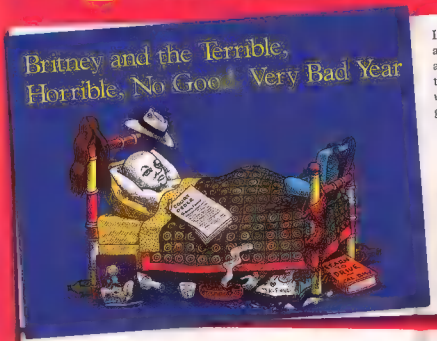
TIPS TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT: A FUNDALINI CONSUMER FRAUD FEATURE

- To limit your liability in the event of theft, maintain a $5 maximum credit line on your credit card.
- Since thieves never bother to check for sensitive information in anything that looks like junk mail, consider having your name legally changed to "Occupant."
- When ordering online, always give a fake address. True, you'll never receive packages sent to you, but no one will know where you really live, which is much more important.
- Some thieves now use sophisticated techniques to retrieve passwords stored on your computer's hard drive. Avoid this by keeping your passwords stored on a yellow Post-it stuck to the front of your computer screen.
- Always update your Windows operating system with the latest security and firewall fixes from Microsoft. Once installed, they will more than likely prevent you from ever again being able to log onto the internet, where most identity theft occurs.
- Steal and use someone else's identity, so if someone else steals it, they haven't stolen yours — you follow?
- To keep your identity totally secure, register it by sending your screen names, passwords, credit card numbers and mother's maiden name to: MAD, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019.



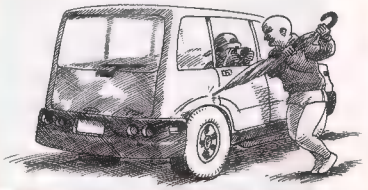
4 BRITNEY SPEARS STRIFE IN THE FAST LANE

If a week is a long time in politics, a responsible, conscientious artist is entitled to ask where in hell a year was a real career stopper. Her professional and personal components were more consistent during the chaotic grooving of *Oops!...I'm Still Standing*, the one stunning streak of cluelessness, plus gave a flabby, lackluster performance at the VMAs, and been hard-hammered, barbed-wired, fork-stuck, skewered, and broomed and mop- handle hoisted. Leave it to Britney to lose her bonus points during her long tailspin.



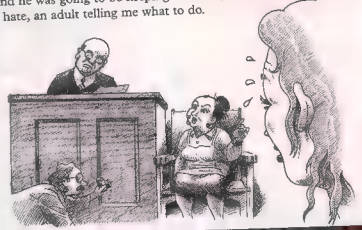
I went to a New Year's Eve party in Las Vegas and I collapsed and had to be carried out. I woke up feeling awful so I went to a special facility to get better, but the place was yucky so I left the next day. Then I gave myself a haircut and oops, I wound up bald. I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year. So I went out clubbing and drinking.

I woke up feeling awful again, so I went to a different special facility to get better. Then I found out that my ex-husband was trying to take away my kids. I love my kids and give them all the Doritos, soda and chewing gum they want! I was so mad I attacked a photographer's SUV with an umbrella.



And the whole time this was going on, I kept forgetting to wear underwear.

I went to court and all these people who were supposed to be my friends said bad things about me and how I treat my children. The judge ordered no drinking, no drugs, no partying, and he was going to be keeping a close eye on me. Just what I hate, an adult telling me what to do.



I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year. So I went out clubbing and drinking.

To help revive my career, I set up a photo shoot with *OK!* magazine, but they got all mean and angry just because I used their fancy designer gown to get fried chicken grease off my hands and clean up after my dog.

And still I forgot to wear underwear.

Tonight was MTV's VMA awards and I opened the show. But everyone was mean to me just because I showed up a few hours late and a little drunk. I thought my lip syncing and dance routine went great, but everyone said I looked fat in my black bikini. I think I even heard some boos. I was so upset, I didn't go to my parenting classes, or for my drug test or even to court to see the judge who was threatening to take away my children. I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year. So I went out clubbing and drinking.

While I was out taking my dog for a drive I found out that I lost custody of my children. And the tabloids are saying my life is a train wreck.

I think I'll move to Australia. I need to find out where that is. And if they have some fun places to go clubbing and drinking.

13 THE SOPRANOS FINALE BADA BING! BADA BOO!

Sopranos creator David Chase built a career on torturing fans of his legendarily overrated series by making them wait eons between progressively disappointing seasons. But with his now infamous cut-to-black "un-grand un-finale" he solidified the show's position as the most pretentious in television history. Whether or not Tony got whacked is still open to debate. But one thing is certain: they should have treated the show's script like it was Big Pussy — and just thrown it overboard.

ALTERNATE SOPRANOS ENDINGS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

The Guy in the "Members Only" Jacket Ending

The Surprise Hit Ending

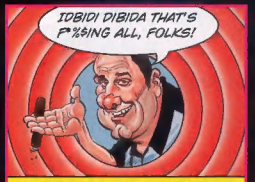
The Zombie Ending

The *Monty Python* Ending

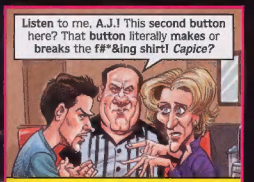
The *Citizen Kane* Ending

The *St. Elsewhere* Ending

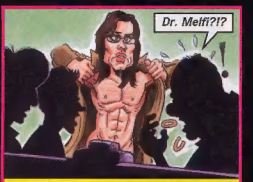
The Saddam Ending



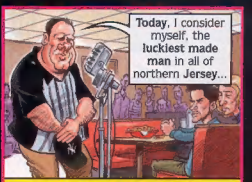
The Looney Tunes Ending



The *Seinfeld* Ending

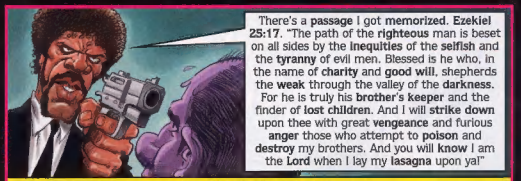


The *Crying Game* Ending



The Lou Gehrig Ending

The *Mission: Impossible* Ending


There's a passage I got memorized. Ezekiel 25:17. "The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of the darkness. For he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know I am the Lord when I lay my lasagna upon ya!"
The *Pulp Fiction* Ending

The Gallagher Ending

The Nixon Ending

The *Newhart* Ending

The Mentos Ending

The M. Night Shyamalan Ending

The *Death of Superman* Ending

The *Survivor* Ending

The Happy Ending

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

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Planet TAD!!!!!

[About Me]

[Name|Tad]
[Age|Hannah younger than Montana]
[Weight on Mars:|51 lbs, but if I were on Mars, I'd probably be dead

[4 December|**04:27pm**]

[**mood**| curious]

Here's what I wonder about James Bond: I get that he has a license to kill. But what do you have to go through to get it? I like to think that first, you have to have a learner's permit to kill. Like, you can go around killing people, but your mom or dad have to come with you. And then maybe there's a written portion, where you have to answer a lot of multiple choice questions about when it is and isn't okay to kill.

[7 December|**03:43pm**]

[**mood**| irritated]

Today in history class, Mr. Campbell started off by telling us that today is the 66th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Doug Spivak raised his hand and said that Pearl Harbor came out in the summer, but Mr. Campbell explained that he was talking about the actual attack on Pearl Harbor, not the movie. And then Doug said, "Wait: the stuff in Pearl Harbor really happened?" And Mr. Campbell said, yes, it really happened. And Doug said, "Well, what about Armageddon? Did that really happen, too?" And Mr. Campbell said no, that that one was fake.

And so then for about five minutes Doug listed movies, and Mr. Campbell told him whether the stuff in them really happened or not. (Zorro: No. The Alamo: Yes. Saving Private Ryan: Yes and no. Raiders of the Lost Ark: No. Dodgeball: No. National Treasure: No.) When Doug asked about Pirates of the Caribbean, Mr. Campbell refused to answer any more questions.

[10 December|**05:19pm**]

[**mood**| anxious]

We're doing Secret Santa in my homeroom. We picked names this morning, and I got Aaron Reynolds, who used to beat me up and give me wedgies in elementary school. Luckily, Chet got Julie Underhill, who I've kind of liked since sixth grade, and he agreed to swap names with me. So now I have to figure out what to get Julie that: A) she'll really like, and B) costs under $10, 'cause that's the limit they set. Which sucks, 'cause you can't really get anyone anything good for ten bucks. Chet pointed out that you can get ten small chilis at Wendy's for $10, but I don't think that's the sort of thing you want to unwrap from your Secret Santa.

[12 December|**07:45pm**]

We had a school assembly today where we all had to listen to the kids in the choir sing Christmas songs, plus one Hanukkah song and one song about Kwanzaa. Then they read the story The Gift of the Magi, which is about this woman who sells her hair to buy her husband a watch chain for Christmas, only he's sold his watch to buy her combs for her hair. And the moral of the story is that it's better to give than to receive, although to me, the bigger news in the story is, some people buy hair. That's so weird.

[12 December|**08:32pm**]

I've been thinking about it, and I think a good story would be "The Birthday Gift of the Magi." It's about a woman who sells her hair to buy her husband a watch chain, and he's like "Oh, hey... thanks", and then he doesn't give her anything, because it's not her birthday. And they both just sort of sit there, feeling kind of awkward.

[15 December|**02:17pm**]

Chet and I went to the Twelve Oaks Mall today, to find our Secret Santa stuff. We went through the entire mall and didn't find anything for Julie, but at Best Buy, Chet found a discount bin of $10 DVDs, so we tried to find the one Aaron Reynolds was least likely to want. I hope he enjoys Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.

[16 December|**05:39pm**]

[**mood**| discouraged]

Today Chet and I went Secret Santa shopping at the Oakwood Mall. We didn't find anything for Julie, and we looked everywhere — even Victoria's Secret. Actually, we didn't really think we'd find anything for Julie there — we just liked having an excuse to see what the inside of the store was like. I asked if they could help me find something for one of my classmates, and the saleslady said, "Is this your girlfriend?", and I said, "No, just a girl in my class." And the saleslady said, "There is nothing here you should buy for her."

[18 December|**06:52pm**]

[**mood**| excited]

So, tomorrow's the Secret Santa exchange, and I really needed to buy Julie's gift today, so Chet and I went to the super-nice mall, The Shops at Twin Oaks. First we spent awhile at The Sharper Image, trying out all their stuff — I think that, when I have a place of my own, everything I own will be from there. It'll be awesome: I'm gonna get the indoor waterfall and the giant resin replica of Predator and the robotic massage chair. I don't know why mom and dad don't buy stuff like that. Anyway, I wound up getting her present at the Godiva Chocolate place. The smallest box they had was $15, but it looked really tiny, and only had, like three things in it, so I wound up getting her the one that costs $30. It's more than I'm spending on any member of my family, but then again, I don't really want to ask any of them out.

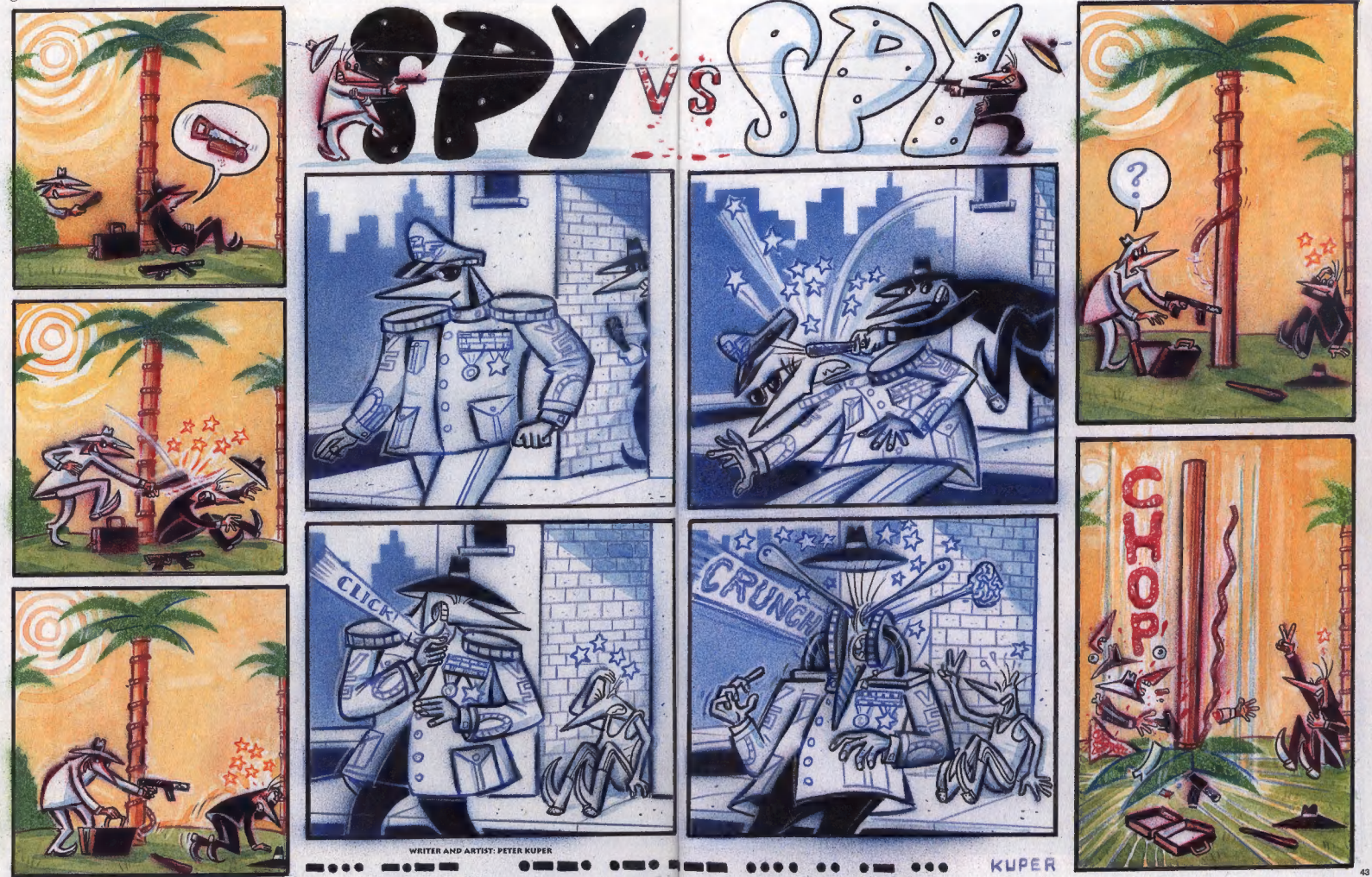
[19 December|**03:17pm**]

[**mood**| annoyed]

Today was the big gift exchange. We all dropped our presents in a box, and then they were handed out. Chet got a copy of the third Harry Potter book, which had clearly been read by whoever gave it to him. I got a note saying that my Santa didn't have time to buy anything, and that he'd give me ten dollars later. Meanwhile, Julie opened up her present and was all annoyed and like, "Oh, chocolate! Great! Someone's trying to make me break out and get fat." So Aaron offered to swap his DVD with her. And she was all, "Oh, that's so sweet of you! I love this movie! Thank you so so so so much!" And then it came time for everyone to tell one another who their Secret Santa was, and I told Julie, and she kind of said "uh-huh" and went back to talking to Aaron.

One of these days, I'm going to write a story called "The Gift of the Tadi." It's about how it's better to give than to receive, but sometimes, it just sucks all around.

WRITER: TIM CARVELL ARTIST: BRIAN DURNIAK


SPY vs SPY
?
CLICK!
CRUNCH
CHOP
WRITER AND ARTIST: PETER KUPER
KUPER

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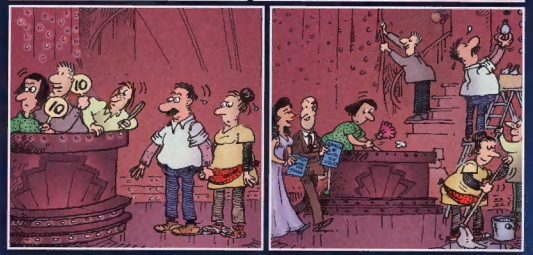
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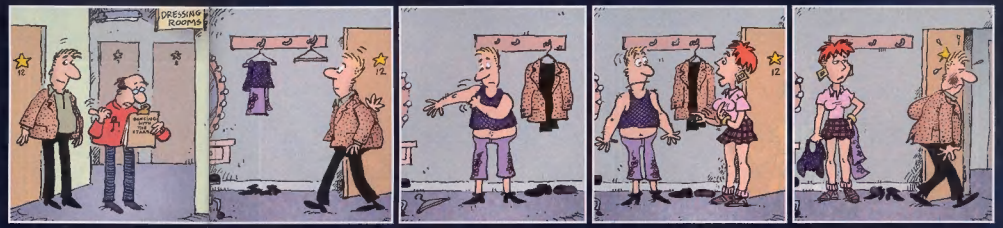
DRESSING ROOMS
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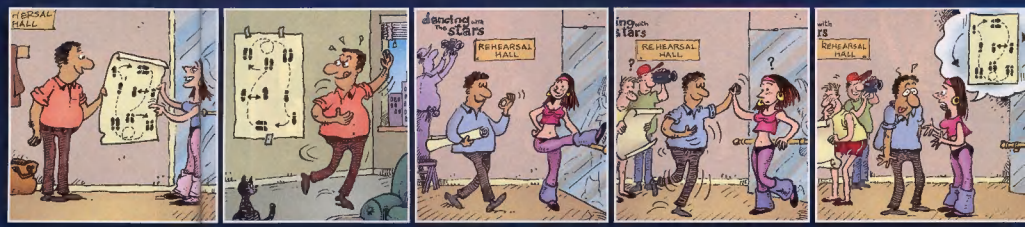
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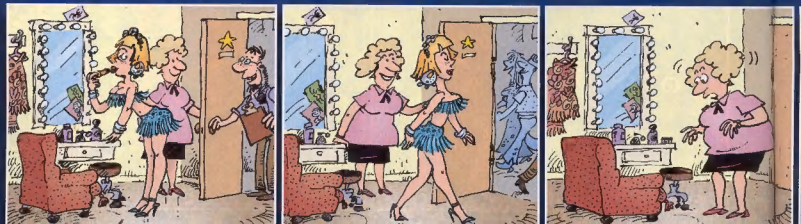

STAGE
TAPING